
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The importance of agriculture to the State is
2 reflected in article XI, section 3 of the Hawaii state
3 constitution. The legislature finds that it is important to
4 identify areas of improvement for agricultural practices in
5 order to strengthen the safety and security of the State's
6 agriculture. Recent cases of foodborne illnesses, such as the
7 emergence of the rat lungworm nematode on the island of Hawaii,
8 illustrate the need to understand the innumerable details
9 involved in food production and in implementing practices that
10 ensure food safety.

11 On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the
12 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The FSMA is considered to
13 be the most sweeping reform of food safety laws in over seventy
14 years. It aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by
15 shifting the focus from responding to contamination to
16 preventing it. The Food and Drug Administration released two of
17 the five major regulations tied to the FSMA on January 4, 2013.



1 These regulations regulate food safety protocols for produce and
2 manufactured foods.

3 The purpose of this Act is to convene a task force in the
4 department of agriculture to study and recommend to the
5 legislature:

- 6 (1) The effects of the FSMA on the State;
- 7 (2) Methods to prepare the State for FSMA implementation
8 and compliance; and
- 9 (3) Additional areas of improvement in agricultural
10 practices to strengthen the safety and security of the
11 State's agriculture.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a food safety task
13 force within the department of agriculture consisting of the
14 following members:

- 15 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, who shall
16 serve as the chairperson of the task force;
- 17 (2) One additional member representing the department of
18 agriculture;
- 19 (3) One member representing the department of health;
- 20 (4) One member representing the College of Tropical
21 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of
22 Hawaii;



- 1 (5) One member representing the Hawaii Farm Bureau
2 Federation;
3 (6) One member representing the Hawaii Farmers Union
4 United; and
5 (7) One member representing the Hawaii Food Manufacturers
6 Association.

7 (b) The task force shall meet quarterly at a place and
8 time to be determined by the chairperson of the task force.
9 Meeting notices shall be posted by the task force as required
10 under chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the task force
11 shall afford all interested persons an opportunity to present or
12 provide testimony at meetings of the task force. The task force
13 shall be dissolved on June 30, 2014.

14 (c) The task force shall study and evaluate:

- 15 (1) The effects of the FSMA on the State;
16 (2) Methods to prepare the State for FMSA implementation
17 and compliance;
18 (3) Additional areas of improvement in agricultural
19 practices to strengthen the safety and security of the
20 State's agriculture; and




1 (4) Any other objective deemed necessary by the
 2 chairperson of the board of agriculture or the task
 3 force.

4 (d) A simple majority of the members of the task force
 5 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and
 6 all actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote
 7 of a majority of the members present.

8 (e) Members of the task force shall serve without
 9 compensation, and all necessary expenses, including travel
 10 expenses, shall be paid by the agency, organization, or
 11 department to which the member belongs. No member shall be made
 12 subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because
 13 of that member's participation as a member of the task force.

14 (f) The task force shall submit a written report of
 15 findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed
 16 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
 17 to the convening of the regular session of 2014.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19 *Calvin K. Iy*
 INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*
[Signature] *Denny C. [Signature]*
[Signature]
 HB HMS 2013-1171

 JAN 18 2013
[Signature]

H.B. NO. 279

Report Title:

Task Force; Department of Agriculture; Food Safety Modernization Act; Food Safety

Description:

Establishes the Food Safety Task Force within the Department of Agriculture to study and recommend methods to prepare for compliance with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, and food safety management practices within the State.

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